

26 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director for Central Reference

SUBJECT: Proposal for Indexing FBIS Material

REFERENCES:

1. Report of the OCR Task Team Number 3, 1 March 1958, "Final Report on Coding"
2. Memo to AD/CR from AD/RR, 31 March 1958, "FBIS Indexing"
3. Memo to AD/CR from AD/RR, 5 March 1958, "Use of FBIS Economic Cards in ORR"

1. As you recently requested, we are summarizing herein our views regarding the indexing of FBIS material.

2. ORR economic intelligence requirements for FBIS material are confined largely to reports covering the Sino-Soviet Bloc and the Bloc's economic relations with non-Bloc countries. Our geographic intelligence requirements are worldwide.

FBIS Cards

The FBIS cards are quantitatively of small importance to the research effort within ORR. It is roughly estimated that 25-35 percent of the FBIS cards received by the ORR Reading Panel are considered of negligible value to ORR and are not passed on to the analysts. Of the remaining 65-75 percent, the analysts have found roughly less than 5 percent would be of sufficient importance and long-term value (3-6 months or more) to require special indexing. Because the number of cards which might profitably be indexed is small, consideration might be given to a system which would depend on analyst initiative for selection of items to be indexed. Moreover, it appears that greater reliance could be placed on the Industrial Register for FBIS card information covering industrial installations.

FBIS Daily Summaries

The information reported in the FBIS Daily Summaries constitutes a large percentage of the source material used in ORR's production of

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intelligence. It would be possible for ORR analysts to continue the present system of maintaining their own files of FBIS items. If, however, it is decided that the demands of other CIA Offices warrant the indexing of this information, ORR would rely on the published indexes and would probably find this more efficient than the present system. ORR interest in these indexes with respect to economic intelligence would center primarily on the indexes covering (a) the USSR and Eastern Europe, (b) the Far East, and (c) to a considerably lesser degree, other areas of the world, such as Western Europe and the Middle East. On matters of geographic intelligence, we would be interested in all published indexes.

Your decision to use the New York Times index and not to use the Intellofax system, in our opinion, seems logical.

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Deputy Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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